

We invite you to join in the challenge to keep Kennebunkport's land, ponds, streams, rivers and ocean beautiful and healthy!



Conservation Commission

Visit the Kennebunkport Conservation Commission's page at kennebunkportme.gov (click "Appointed Boards") which includes the following information:

- **Best Management Practices for the Application of Turf Pesticides and Fertilizers**—this document was adopted by the Board of Selectman in 2009 as the recommended policy for care and maintenance of all town properties.
- **Letter to Homeowners** which includes a list of **"Seven Questions to Ask Your Lawn Care Company"** if you contract out for your lawn care.
- **Grass Seed Mixes for Yardscaping**
- **Healthy Lawn Care Products**

LAWNS FOR LOBSTERS

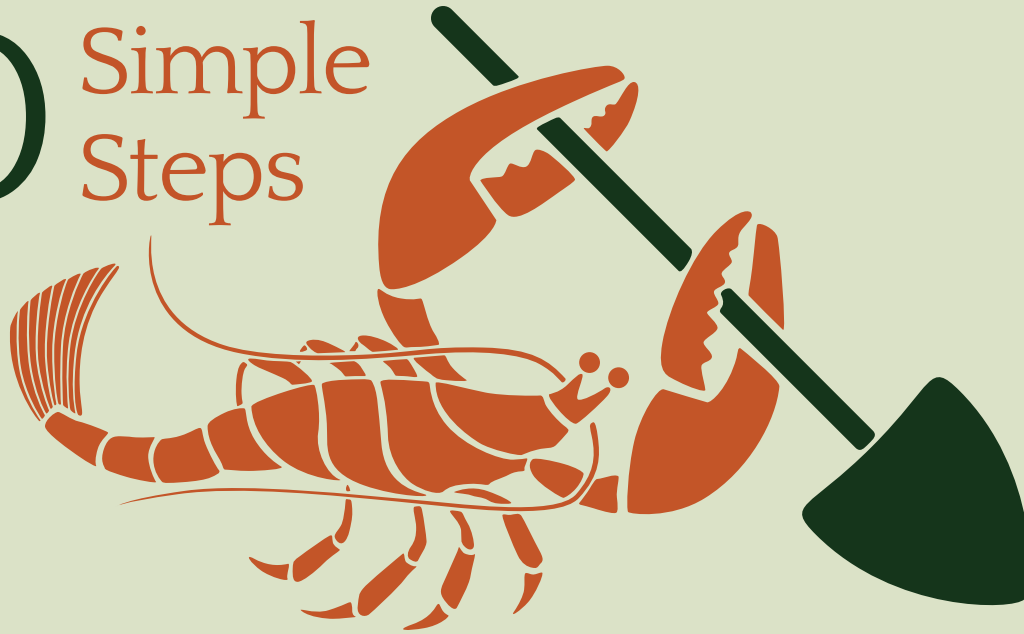
10 Simple Steps
toward a safe & healthy lawn
for people, pets & lobsters!



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Conservation Commission



10 Simple Steps



1. Leave at least a 25' buffer zone

A buffer of untreated grass or other vegetation around wells, wetlands, streams, coastal areas or other water bodies acts as a filter to help protect the water.

2. Test your soil

Only add nutrients if the soil needs them, using time-release products if possible. Avoid products with a high phosphorus content!

3. Know the size of your lawn

Follow directions and apply only the amount of fertilizer needed for the square footage of your lawn. Sweep excess fertilizer off of hard surfaces.

4. Water wisely and infrequently

If absolutely necessary, soak the lawn once or twice a week with about 1" of water which encourages strong root growth.

5. Regularly overseed your lawn

Over-seeding with fine or tall fescues, white clover, and other grasses appropriate for this climate provides a dense lawn which minimizes weeds.

6. Mow high and leave the clippings

Make 3" high grass the new normal. The clippings provide nitrogen rich (free!) fertilizer, so leave them to decompose.

7. Apply fertilizer in the fall

Fertilizer is best applied between late-August and Columbus day.

8. Apply fertilizer when rain is not predicted for 24 hours

After application of fertilizer, water lightly with $\frac{1}{4}$ " to $\frac{1}{2}$ " of water. (A rain gauge or an empty can or jar placed in the middle of the lawn can help you measure the amount.) Run off from fertilizer and pesticides into sewers and surrounding water bodies is the greatest cause of contamination!

9. Manage pest problems with spot applications

Don't broadcast pesticides like grub and crabgrass control or "weed and feed". Look for biological or mechanical ways to control pests instead of using toxic pesticides which can have long term health effects on our families, our pets and wildlife.

10. Be patient!

It takes time for a chemically treated lawn to transition to a lawn that is naturally healthy. The goal is a lawn that takes less time to maintain, uses less water, demands less fertilizer and pest control and is safer for our surroundings.

For more information visit
www.yardscaping.org